

Appl. No. 10/788,577
Amdt. Dated March 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 24, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 13 remain unchanged in the application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-6 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamaru et al., JP 2001-281654, in view of Iijima, US Patent No. 6,906,767.

In response to the rejection, Applicant hereby traverses this rejection and submits that claims 1-6 and 13 are allowable over Nakamaru et al. in view of Iijima.

Claim 1, as originally filed, recites in part:

a backlight module having a light source, a light guide plate, a reflector, and a quarter-wave plate, . . . ; and

a liquid crystal panel having a reflective polarizing element, the liquid crystal panel is located on the backlight module, and the reflective polarizing element faces a top surface of the light guide plate.

Applicant submits that Nakamura et al., as a whole, teaches away from the proposed modification based upon Iijima.

Nakamaru et al. discloses a backlight module having a light source 104, a light guide plate 101, a reflector 106 and a quarter-wave plate 109. A plurality of fine projecting and recessing parts 102 are formed on a light-emitting surface of the light guide plate 101 and have a polarized light separation function. Specifically, the translated abstract of Nakamura et al.

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(available via, e.g., www.espacenet.com) indicates that the problem to be solved by the reference is "to realize functions of a polarized light separation plate and a light-transmitting body ... only by the light transmitting body..." Nakamura et al. provides that the solution involves "forming fine projecting and recessing parts ... on the light-emitting surface of the light-transmitting body."

Further, Nakamaru et al. discloses that Figure 8 is a view of a conventional LCD element (the phrase of "従来型" signifies "conventional"). What is thus shown in that figure actually is a prior art backlight module, as disclosed by Nakamaru et al. As shown in Figure 8, the polarization division plate 108 is used for transmitting P-polarized light and reflecting S-polarized light. Accordingly, the polarization division plate 108 is the essentially same as the reflective polarizing plate 40 disclosed by Iijima.

Specially, at paragraph [0013]-[0017], of JP 2001-281654, Nakamaru et al. discloses that the projecting and recessing parts 102 are used to replace the conventional polarization division plate 108 because the utilization of the conventional polarization division plate 108 causes a series of technical problems, such as "increment in components", "display unevenness", and "bad yield".

The prior art teaching of Nakamaru et al., as a whole, must be considered (MPEP §2141.02 and the related case law cites), including those portions (i.e., the projecting and recessing parts 102) that teach away from the use of the prior art embodiments (i.e., the polarization division plate 108 shown in Figure 8) and/or the component usage disclosed by Iijima (i.e., the reflective polarizing plate 40).

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Additionally, as set forth in MPEP 2143.01 and the related cases cite, Part V, "if proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification." At Column 4, Lines 4-7, of JP 2001-281654, Nakamaru et al. discloses that "the purpose of this invention is to give both the functions of polarization separation and light guide outgoing radiation in which it is used in order to use efficiently the illumination-light line which carried out incidence to the transparent material and to attain the improvement in display brightness of a liquid crystal display component to a transparent material". Accordingly, modifying the invention of Nakamura et al. to provide the polarization division plate 108 of the prior art disclosed thereby and/or the reflective polarizing plate 40 of Iijima would render the prior art invention unsatisfactory for its intended purpose.

Therefore, Nakamura et al. fails to teach or suggest the present liquid crystal display, as set forth in claim 1, as originally filed.

Moreover, Iijima is relied upon by the Examiner as a teaching of an LCD device with a diffuser 30, reflective polarizing plate 40, and a backlight module 70, 80. However, in the case of the inventive embodiment of Nakamura et al., it would not have been obvious to modify that embodiment to provide a reflective polarizing plate since that function is already performed by the fine projecting and recessing parts 102 on the light-emitting surface of the light guide plate 101. Further, the prior art embodiment of Nakamura et al., even if modified by Iijima, would still not disclose or suggest the use of a quarter-wave plate in conjunction with the other elements required by claim 1. Thus, Nakamura et al. in view of Iijima

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fails to teach or suggest the present liquid crystal display, as set forth in claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to be unobvious and patentable over Nakamaru et al. in view of Iijima. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 directly or indirectly depend from independent claim 1 and, therefore, should also be allowable.

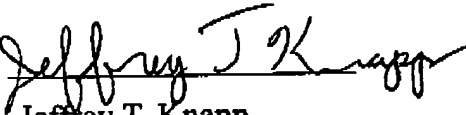
Applicant submits that claim 13 recites limitations similar to those of claim 1. For reasons similar to those asserted above in relation to the patentability of claim 1 over Nakamaru et al. in view of Iijima under 35 U.S.C. 103, Applicant submits that claim 13 is also in condition for allowance over the cited references.

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In view of the foregoing, the present application as claimed in the pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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